

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 03030 190043Z
ACTION IO-14

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 3030

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), HA
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG VISIT TO HAITI

1. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION 18 AUGUST WITH UN AMBASSADOR SERGE CHARLES ABOUT AMBASSADOR YOUNG VISIT, CHARGE READ TO HIM PASSAGE FROM MOISES GARCIA, IPS FILE OF AUGUST 16:

IN ANSWER TO QUERY FOR MORE SPECIFIC DETAIL ON U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AS IT APPLIES TO HAITI, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID "I DON'T KNOW THAT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY OUGHT TO HAVE A REPORT CARD. I THINK BASICALLY WHAT WE WANT IS TO SEE THAT A PROCESS CONTINUES. THERE'S NOTHING THAT ANYBODY--INCLUDING US--CAN DO THAT'S ENOUGH, AND ESPECIALLY IN A COUNTRY LIKE HAITI WHERE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS CONSTITUTE HUMAN RIGHTS. THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE GOING TO KEEP THEM STRUGGLING FOR MANY YEARS."

2. CHARGE SAID POLICY AS ENUNCIATED BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE SINCE IT LINKED U.S.-HAITIAN RELATIONS TO A "PROCESS" OF IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES, AND GOH HAD ALREADY DEMONSTRATED OVER PAST YEAR THAT PROCESS WAS UNDERWAY. GOH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CHOOSE TO EXPRESS THIS POLICY IN ITS OWN TERMS, AS NOUVEAU MONDE HAD DONE 16 AUGUST IN SUGGESTING PARALLEL BETWEEN DUVALIERISM AND U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT GOH KEEP US INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE. WE HAD REPORTED ALL CHANGES WE HAD BECOME AWARE OF IN PAST, BUT INFORMATION WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO COME BY.

3. RESPONDING TO QUERY FOR INFORMATION, CHARLES TOLD CHARGE THAT THERE WOULD BE DELAY IN INVITATION TO IAHRG BECAUSE GOH CONSIDERED IT IMPROPER TO INVITE IAHRG WITHOUT HAVING FIRST ADHERED TO SAN

JOSE CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. GOH RIGHT NOW IN PROCESS OF PREPARING PAPERS OF ADHESION TO CONVENTION AND GOH SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED ACT IN SEVERAL WEEKS. AT THAT TIME GOH WOULD INVITE IAHRC TO VISIT HAITI. CHARLES ALSO SAID RELEASE OF PRISONERS WAS ALSO UNDERWAY (SEE SEPTTEL).

4. CHARLES WENT ON TO REITERATE THAT GOH WAS SINCERE IN CARRYING OUT REFORMS. THERE WERE PROBLEMS WITH SOME MINISTERS AND OTHERS, BUT THEY WERE PROBLEMS THAT GOH WOULD RESOLVE.

5. COMMENT: ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION IS AS SURPRISING AS IT IS ENCOURAGING.

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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